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November 5, 2021

Joint Committee on Judiciary  
Massachusetts Legislature  
State House  
Boston, MA 02133

**RE: S.1133/H.1714- SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Eldridge, Chair Day, Vice Chair Lesser, Vice Chair Tyler and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I write in strong support of S.1133/H.1714, An Act Relative to Parentage to Promote Children's Security, also known as the Massachusetts Parentage Act (MPA). The MPA will comprehensively update parentage laws in the Commonwealth, ensuring that all children have equal access to the security of a legal parent-child relationship, regardless of the circumstances of the child's birth or the marital status, gender, or sexual orientation of their parents. A child's parental relationship is the foundation of their healthy development and well-being over a lifetime, and Massachusetts law must respect and protect all children.

Massachusetts is the only New England state which has not updated its parentage laws, and this leaves our children vulnerable to many harms, including family separation. Massachusetts courts have tried to keep pace through the case law, but they need guidance and comprehensive policy to ensure that these core protections are codified in our statutes.

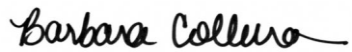
**RESOLVE:** The National Infertility Association represents the millions of men and women in the United States with infertility and the more than 211,000 Massachusetts residents with infertility. This legislation is critical Massachusetts has the highest rate of births through assisted reproduction in the country, yet our statutes do not adequately protect all children born through assisted reproduction. We need comprehensive protections securing the relationship between intended parents and their children, and we need clarity that gamete donors are not parents.

Massachusetts law lacks clear standards to protect all involved in the surrogacy process, including the intended parents, donors, and people acting as surrogates. Massachusetts appeals courts have called for legislative action for decades, most recently in *Adoption of Daphne* and *Guardianship of Keanu*. Best-practice guidance is long overdue.

Based on the Uniform Parentage Act of 2017, the MPA has been thoughtfully crafted by leading experts in parentage law to meet the needs of children and families. The bill will ensure that the Commonwealth's parentage laws remain constitutional, reflect best practices, and protect all children in the Commonwealth.

I hope you will report the MPA, S.1133/H.1714, favorably out of committee. We are happy to provide you additional information on this issue as RESOLVE has been providing support, information, and advocacy for the infertility community since 1974. I can be reached at [bcollura@resolve.org](mailto:bcollura@resolve.org) and our website is [www.resolve.org](http://www.resolve.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Collura". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Collura  
President and CEO